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IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing network accounting
information, comprising:

(a)   receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

(b)   monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

(c)   after receiving the accounting information, discarding at least a portion of the
accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based
on the monitored aspect;
wherein the portion of the accounting information is discarded to prevent an
overload of subsequent processing.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting
information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

4.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising
generating a summary of the accounting information.

5.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least
one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan
of a plurality of ports.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least
one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate
of receipt of the accounting information.

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8.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

9.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.

10.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing network accounting information, comprising:

(a)   computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

(b)   computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

(c)   computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic and is expendable, based on the monitored aspect, after receiving the accounting information;

computer code for allowing at least a portion of remaining accounting information to pass to subsequent accounting processing, after receiving the accounting information;

wherein the portion of the accounting information is discarded to prevent an overload of the subsequent accounting processing.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

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14.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising computer code for generating a summary of the accounting information.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.

17.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

18.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.

19.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.

20.   (Currently Amended) A system for processing network accounting information, comprising:
      (a)——logic for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
      (b)——logic for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

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(e)   logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that

occurs during a surge in network traffic and is expendable, based on the

monitored aspect, after receiving the accounting information;

logic for aggregating at least a portion of the accounting information prior to

passing to subsequent accounting processing, based on the monitored aspect, after

receiving the accounting information;

logic for allowing at least a portion of remaining accounting information to

pass to the subsequent accounting processing, after receiving the accounting

information;

wherein the portions of the accounting information are discarded and

aggregated to prevent an overload of the subsequent accounting processing;

wherein the subsequent accounting processing includes operation and

business support system processing.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing network accounting

information, comprising:

(a)   receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

(b)   detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;

(c)   detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;

(d)   detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;

(e)   detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a
       predetermined amount;

(f)   detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;

(g)   conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on
       aspects detected during steps (b)-(f) by discarding at least a portion of the
       accounting information after the receipt thereof to prevent an overload of
       subsequent accounting processing; and

(h)   generating a summary of the accounting information;

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(i)   wherein the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic is discarded.